Never a Christmas morning,
Never an old year ends,
But that someone thinks of
someone—
Old days, old times, old
friends!

JENKINS

"The Economy Store"

APPOMATTOX, VA.

We have never lost our childhood illusions — we still believe in Santa Claus. For there is a little of him expressed in every one of our friends. Heartfelt thanks to all for keeping this spirit alive — and we join Santa in saying — Merry Christmas!

THE CLEANERS

PHONE 8702 Appomattox, Va.

LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANERS

A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year

Appomattox Printing Company

Jacob Lewis W. Lloyd Vaughan

Appomattox, Va.

Christmas Carols Play Important Part In Holiday Observances All Over World

AGAIN at this Yuletide season the strains of Christmas carols are floating into the hearts and homes of millions of people, carrying the spirit of Christmas. It is at this holiday season that the impulse to sing grips everyone, from the crooning infant to the oldest and most confirmed "monotone."

There are many kinds of carols, some for every mood and taste. Hymns or chants celebrating the Nativity have been sung since the earliest days of the Christian church. Some of the carols, like "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly," "Good King Wenceslas" and the wassailing songs, have no direct relation to the Nativity, yet they are fully expressive of various phases of the Christmas spirit.

Best loved and most frequently sung of the carols is "Silent Night." It was Christmas time in the hamlet of Oberndorf, South Germany, in 1818 that this beautiful song was

composed. A young priest, Father Josef Mohr, was returning from the bedside of a parishioner when he looked down upon the sleeping hamlet surrounded by snow. It lay there silent in the dark night, lighted only by the bright stars and a few glimmering candles. That first Christmas, he thought, must have been like this and there came to him these words:

"Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright . . ."

In his study he finished the verses, then took them to Franz Gruber, the organist, who caught the spirit of a hymn. "Silent Night" was sung for the first time in the little wooden church in Oberndorf that Christmas Eve. Later a group of Austrian Tyrol mountain folksong singers introduced the carol to other parts of the world, including America. Published in 1840, it has been translated into almost every language and is a favorite throughout the world.

"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful" or "Adeste Fideles" is another hymn of the ages which apparently is destined to live for centuries. It has been translated into 76 languages.

The words are sometimes ascribed to St. Bonaventura, bishop of Albano, in the thirteenth century. It is most commonly believed, however, that it was not written until the seventeenth or eighteenth century. The hymn often is called the Portuguese hymn because it was sung in the Portuguese chapel in London about 1785 to the tune now inseparable from it:

"Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem . . ."

An American song which carries the spirit of Christmas is the sweet and beautiful carol, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." The poem was written by Edmund H. Sears, a New England minister, in a religious journal. The music is by the American composer, Richard S. Willis, who was struck by the unusual beauty of the poem and "just set down the notes that fit the words":

"It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old . . ."

One of the most popular Yuletide hymns, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" follows the traditional carol style. The first two stanzas depict the angels hovering over the earth and singing their joyous song, the third brings words of comfort to the weary and the fourth prophesies the happy days when all the world shall join in the angel's song.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem," another American contribution to the famous Christmas songs of the world, was written by Phillips Brooks, a Boston minister. On a trip to the Holy Land, Brooks stood on the starlit hills on Christmas Eve and looked down upon the little city of Bethlehem lying still and peaceful in the night. On the next Christmas, back in America, he wrote the song that was to become famous:

"O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie . . ."

Written for Sunday school singing, the song at first was anonymous but, when the hymn gained immediate favor, Brooks admitted authorship. Many musical settings of this beautiful poem have been made, the two most commonly used being by the English composer, Joseph Barnby, and the American composer, Louis H. Redner.

Charles Wesley, younger brother of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist denomination, shares with Isaac Watts the honor of being the greatest producer of hymns. His "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," first published in 1739, is among the most popular Christmas carols although it has undergone many changes.

"Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King . . ."

The music is by that distinguished composer, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy and hence was written long after Wesley died.

Watts' principal contribution to the world's holiday joy is the carol, "Joy to the World." The tune, "Antioch," is an adaptation of Handel's oratorio, "Messiah."

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King . . ."

Watts, too, was a minister. While officiating as pastor of Market Lane church in England his health failed although he was still a young man. He turned to writing verse and became a great poet.

"The First Noel," meaning the first Christmas, is one of the oldest songs about the coming of Christ. One of the ancient medieval carols, it probably is about 400 years old. The poetry is crude, merely a peasant's attempt to present the New Testament story in rhyme (thus making it easy to remember) but thoroughly sincere and devout. The music likewise is simple, being practically one little strain sung three times, but it is vigorous, joyous, fresh and virile.

"The first Noel the Angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay . . ."

Caroling or wassailing is an old English custom. The original words of this traditional English Christmas song began "Here we come a-wassailing" and continued in the chorus, "Love and joy come to you, and to your wassail too."

The old song commonly was sung by groups of revelers, particularly young women, who went about offering a hot drink, a merry song and a pretty curtsey in exchange for a small gift. The word "wassail" comes from the Anglo-Saxon "Waes-hael," meaning "Be in health."

And, of course, Merry Christmas would be less merry to both children and adults without that little jingle, "Jingle Bells," to jingle all the way through the Yuletide season with its mythical one-horse sleigh—which in most parts of America belongs to another day. But, sans the sleigh bells and the sleigh, who is there, child or adult, who does not love that gay and rollicking Christmas ditty to which dear old Santa Claus comes skimming into town or to isolated country homes behind his eight reindeer.

Season's Greetings

We extend the Greetings of the Season to our Friends and Customers

J. A. BURKE & COMPANY

"All Forms of Good Insurance" Phone 4902

Christmas

May all Happiness be yours

Once again the joyous spell of Christmas is cast over us, as we hurry about with gifts for those we love. That warm glow we get from giving at this holy season cannot be duplicated at any other time of the year. It is our sincere wish that a full measure of happiness may be yours, this Christmas of 1947.

Hunter T. Dickerson

FURNISHINGS FOR MEN & BOYS

APPOMATTOX, VA.

Gayest Christmas Greetings

We extend our gayest greetings to all of our friends this glorious season. May the joys of Christmas carry you and your loved ones through the days that follow, filling them with abundant gladness. Merry Christmas to all.

Coleman's Feed & Seed Store

W. Twyman Coleman, Proprietor

Your Southern States Dealer

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

To all of you who were so loyal to us through all the years we were in business.

You made it both pleasant and profitable for us and it was a real pleasure to serve you.

Since leaving the store a year ago we have missed you every day. Our successor, Mr. Jenkins, has been untiring in his efforts to make the store modern and up-to-date. It now compares favorably with the city stores. We hope you like it and will continue to give Mr. Jenkins a liberal share of your patronage.

Your friends,

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Inge.

Greetings at CHRISTMAS

And when the day is gone
Our wishes for our friends
Continue on and on and on!

A. R. HARWOOD

INSURANCE AGENCY

A Jolly Christmas

and a Prosperous New Year

To all my friends in Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte and Cumberland Counties

"Let not one heart be sad today,
May every child be glad and gay,
God bless thy children, great and small,
Thy lowly hut or castle hall,
And may each soul keep festival,
At Christmas."

C. T. Moses

WE WISH YOU
AT CHRISTMAS
MANY HAPPY HOURS
AND TRUST
WE MAY SERVE YOU
IN THE FUTURE.

FARMERS NATIONAL BANK

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

APPOMATTOX VIRGINIA

Cherry Tree Carol

The old Cherry Tree carol, or the legend upon which it is based, is undoubtedly the reason for the custom of placing a branch of cherry tree in water to bud for Christmas time.

According to this legend, Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem passed a tree loaded with cherries. Mary was hungry for some of the fruit and asked Joseph to pluck some cherries for her. The tree graciously bowed down so that Mary could pick the fruit herself.

It has been customary among the Czechs and Slovaks to take the branch of a cherry tree and place it in water in the late fall so that the buds reach the blossoming stage at Christmas time.

The belief was current that if the sprig blossomed by Christmas Eve, the girl who tended it would marry during the New Year.

Danger From Tree Fire Ever Present

Although the Christmas tree is one of the most picturesque Yuletide ornaments, it is also one of the most dangerous, with the threat of fire an ever present possibility.

Replacement of the candle by the electric light has removed some of the hazards formerly experienced, but danger still lurks from faulty connections or careless handling of bulbs and strings.

To minimize the fire hazard, the department of agriculture offers two pertinent suggestions: First, keep the tree well watered and, second, fireproof it with ammonium sulphate or calcium chloride.

To provide the tree with sufficient water, cut the butt on a slant at least an inch above the original cut. Keep the water level above the slashed surface. In purchasing a tree, always look for one that has been felled recently so that the needles have not dried.

Fresh trees also are essential for flame-proofing. In using ammonium sulphate, a chemical content one-fourth the weight of the tree should be used. After dissolving one and a half pints of the ammonium in a pound of water, slash the stem of the tree and place it in the solution. Then, let the tree stand four to six days in the solution for complete absorption. Trees fireproofed in this manner will not be ignited by an electric spark.

Christmas Visit to The Seven Fountains

In 1540 when a plague was raging in Switzerland, 12 pious men of Rheinfelden formed a brotherhood to pray for St. Sebastian's aid, and to nurse the sick and bury the dead. Pestilence in medieval times was ascribed to evil spirits in water, so the Brotherhood of St. Sebastian visited each of the town's seven fountains, praying and singing hymns at each stop. They still continue this custom, but only on Christmas Eve. For this ritual the 12 Brothers are dressed in black, with black silk top hats. At every fountain they gather around the lantern-bearer and sing a medieval song. The march begins at the Froschweide fountain, where the plague is supposed to have started three centuries ago. When they have passed the seventh, they enter the church for midnight mass, and ceremoniously place their lantern on the altar of St. Sebastian.

Legend has it that when Christ was born and Satan died, the bells in the churches were rung. At exactly midnight the tolling changed to a joyful peal, announcing the birth of the Christ.

In the dark chambers high above the turmoil and strife of human life, dwelt the Apostles of Peace, whose salutations were never so welcome as at the time of the great winter feasts of Christmas, so William Auld tells in his traditions.

Quaint Swiss Custom Of Meeting Lover

Forecasting is ritualized in Switzerland. Grandma goes to the cellar, selects the most perfect onion, halves it, and peels 12 layers, one for each month. The next day these layers show what the weather will be during the coming year.

The daughter of the house goes about town at midnight, to drink from nine different fountains. Then she goes to church. She expects to meet her unknown lover on the church steps.

To Our Friends and Patrons

Business conditions for the past six years in our line have not been what we hoped for because of a shortage created by lack of steel supply that makes new cars and trucks scarce. Rationing of steel during the war period and since caused these conditions.

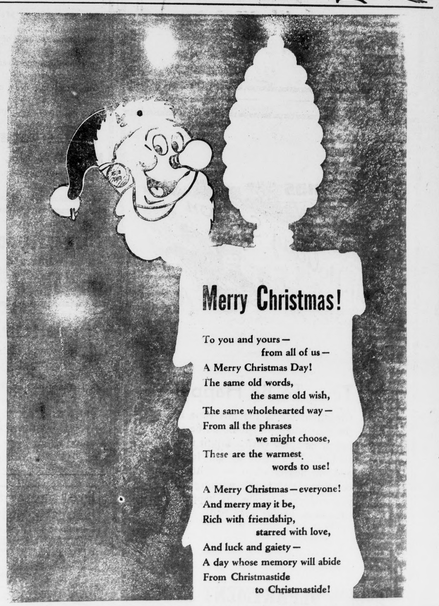
Steel manufacturers of the United States have great capacity, but this has had to be rationed to all necessary business and the automobile manufacturers have not been able to secure a sufficient amount to produce cars and trucks and parts in volume to supply the extra demand created by lack of new car and truck normal replacements during the war year. However, we are hopeful that these conditions will gradually improve in the future and it will be possible for our customers to get new automobiles and trucks to take care of all their needs

It is certainly our desire and wish to help our customers and friends as soon as possible. We solicit your continued good will and patronage and wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year

Moses Motor Company

Appomattox, Va.

Virginia State Dealers License No.3



Merry Christmas!

To you and yours—
from all of us—
A Merry Christmas Day!
The same old words,
the same old wish,
The same wholehearted way—
From all the phrases
we might choose,
These are the warmest
words to use!

A Merry Christmas—everyone!
And merry may it be,
Rich with friendship,
starred with love,
And luck and gaiety—
A day whose memory will abide
From Christmastide
to Christmastide!

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

* *Listen to the* Electric Hour—*the* Hour of Charm, *Sundays, 4:30 P.M., EST, CBS.*